

California School News Weekly Update
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California schoolnews

weekly update



February 26, 2014

Upcoming Events

[LCFF Workshop | Feb. 26 - Sacramento](#)

[Institute for New and First Term Board Members | Feb. 28 - Burbank](#)

[The Brown Act | Feb. 28 - Burbank](#)

[LCFF Workshop | March 1 - Los Angeles](#)

[LCFF Workshop | March 4 - Fresno](#)

[LCFF Workshop | March 4 - Yreka](#)

[LCFF Workshop | March 6 - Burlingame](#)

[LCFF Workshop | March 11 - Orange County](#)

[LCFF Workshop | March 12 - San Diego](#)

[LCFF Workshop | March 13 - Imperial County](#)

[LCFF Workshop | March 14 - Ventura County Office of Education](#)

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CSBA backs bill to boost state funding for school transportation

Sen. Torres' SB 1137 would increase reimbursement, provide COLA

State Sen. Norma Torres, D-Pomona, has introduced [a measure co-sponsored by CSBA](#) and the California School Employees Association to increase school transportation reimbursement rates for school districts and county offices of education that are severely underfunded. Under Senate Bill 1137, local educational agencies reimbursed at less than 50 percent of state-approved costs would be bumped up to a 50 percent reimbursement rate during a phase-in period. The bill, which also has strong support from a growing coalition of school transportation advocates, would also provide a cost-of-living adjustment for transportation funding for LEAs. The current statewide reimbursement rate for home-to-school transportation is 38 percent. The funding distribution is so uneven that some see less than 10 percent reimbursement, while others receive over 80 percent of their approved costs. "CSBA has consistently advocated for increased funding for school transportation and the need to re-examine the inadequacy of the current funding formula. CSBA deeply appreciates Senator Torres' authorship of SB 1137, which will begin to address important aspects of this flawed formula," said CSBA Executive Director & CEO Vernon M. Billy.

CCSS: Superintendent survey responses sought by March 4

ACSA seeks to demonstrate need for additional funding for implementation

CSBA is helping the Association of California School Administrators document the need for greater funding to implement the Common Core State Standards and assessments, Next Generation Science Standards and English Language Development Standards. School governance teams are asked to urge their superintendents to complete a brief, eight-question survey concerning the funding provided for the purpose in the 2013-14 state budget—half of the amount the California Department of Education estimates is needed, as [this CSBA Governance Brief](#) reported. "There seems to be a



misunderstanding in Sacramento that ... there is no longer an immediate need for additional funding to implement these reforms. As you know, this sentiment could not be further from the truth and we need your help in educating our lawmakers and the governor about the realities of teaching new standards and administering a radically different assessment," [ACSA said in an email](#) to superintendents with a link to the survey. Responses are requested by next Tuesday, March 4.

CSBA Education Legal Alliance supports local governance authority

Amicus brief filed in OUSD v. AIMS charter revocation case

CSBA's Education Legal Alliance has filed a [friend-of-the-court brief](#) with California's 1st District Court of Appeal in support of the Oakland Unified School District's authority to revoke the charter held by the founder of American Indian Model Schools for alleged conflict-of-interest rule violations. The ELA brief argues that the Alameda County Superior Court erred when it issued a preliminary injunction that overturned the district's revocation of the AIMS charter. School boards have the expertise to oversee and evaluate the operation of local charter schools, the brief says, and the court erroneously interfered with the school board's authority in this critical area when it issued its injunction.

CSBA here to help as LCAP planning begins in earnest

Register for complimentary events at www.csba.org/LCFF

Now that the Office of Administrative Law has given [final approval to emergency regulations](#) for the Local Control Funding Formula and the Local Control and Accountability Plan template adopted by the State Board of Education in January, customizable versions of the regulations and template in English and Spanish have been added to [CSBA's online LCFF resources](#). Also new on the toolkit is a [guide by the California State PTA](#) to help school districts and parents develop family engagement goals and activities in their LCAPs. CSBA is also conducting two-hour workshops at locations throughout the state to update CSBA members on the LCFF regulations and template, discuss best practices for engaging local stakeholders and alignment with other programs, and to answer any questions; sessions are coming to Sacramento and Los Angeles this week, and others are scheduled. There is no cost to attend, but [please register](#) to ensure sufficient seating and materials.

NOTE: Last week the California Department of Education announced that local educational agencies must certify their "awareness of the LCFF requirements" for 2013-14 and posted a [sample certification online](#). The certification should be kept on file for auditor review and should not be sent to CDE.

Presentation proposals sought for AEC 2014

Submit your ideas by April 4

CSBA's [Annual Education Conference and Trade Show](#)—coming to San Francisco Sunday, Dec. 14, through Tuesday, Dec. 16—is the place to showcase your district's innovative and successful programs and ideas. This year's strands, or areas of focus, for AEC are:

- Opportunity and achievement
- Student learning

- Funding, finance and facilities
- Leadership through governance
- Partnerships and collaborations

We're looking for CSBA members who can share their success stories in those areas during AEC presentations. Look for the AEC logo on CSBA's website or go straight to aec.csba.org to learn how you can submit your conference presentation proposal. The deadline is April 4.

Federal Board Member Action Day coming March 19 ***Save the date, and watch for details in the Weekly Update and online***

CSBA's first-ever Federal Board Member Action Day will be Wednesday, March 19. It's a special opportunity for board members to promote CSBA's **Governance First** federal legislative agenda in personal visits to congressional district offices. Bringing a federal issues advocacy day to local offices at a time when most members of Congress will be home is a lot more cost-effective than flying hundreds of school board members to Washington, D.C. Briefing papers on key national issues impacting public schools and students will be available March 10, ahead of an orientation and strategy session on March 14. As CSBA President Josephine "Jo" Lucey said: "If you don't show up and voice your opinion, how will your representative ever know what you think and what you value?" Watch for details at www.csba.org.

Events, Training and Opportunities



School tobacco policies revised to address e-cigarettes

Archived CDE webinar includes CSBA sample policies

The increasing popularity of electronic cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems has prompted the California Department of Education, CSBA and other policy advocates to call for stronger board policies against their use. CSBA Senior Director for Policy Development and Maintenance Services Bode Owoyele recently participated in a CDE **webinar, now archived online**, that provides an overview of e-cigarettes and other vapor products along with local, state, and national policy activities addressing these products. The presentation includes recommendations for amending existing school board policies to include language on e-cigarettes, which are sometimes camouflaged in devices that look like pens, soda cans, inhalers and other non-tobacco devices. A **toolkit for tobacco-free schools** on the CDE website has links to CSBA sample policies, which Owoyele reviews about one hour 13 minutes into the webinar.

March 18 webinar will guide LEAs in Prop. 39 application process

State Energy Commission now accepting plans for Clean Energy Jobs Act funds

The California Energy Commission's second **training webinar** for local educational agencies on the California Clean Energy Jobs Act will be Tuesday, March 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. Proposition 39, passed by the voters in 2012, will generate up to \$2.5 billion over five years under the act for capital projects to improve energy efficiency

projects at K-12 schools, community colleges and other public agencies. The commission adopted implementation guidelines last December and is now accepting [Energy Expenditure Plans](#) that LEAs must file to access the funding they're eligible for. The March 18 webinar will guide participants through the process of preparing and submitting required plan documents. The [commission website](#) has links to a Proposition 39 handbook, an archived training webinar from earlier this year, and contact information for questions about the application process; this Fall 2013 [California Schools magazine story](#) has more background, including information on how CSBA partnerships can help [maximize members' energy savings](#).

Register for March 7 Education Insights webcast on LCFF

[Registration is open](#) for the second installment of CSBA's [Education Insights: Legal Update](#) webcast series Friday, March 7, when a panel of education legal experts from the law firms of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost; and Lozano Smith will take an in-depth look at what school boards should be doing now to prepare their Local Control and Accountability Plans under the state's new Local Control Funding Formula for K-12 schools. The hourlong interactive discussion, starting at 10 a.m., will include the opportunity for viewer questions.

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